

controls and financial systems in effect during fiscal year 1994; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-173. A communication from the Attorney General, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the internal controls and financial systems in effect during fiscal year 1994; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-174. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the internal controls and financial systems in effect during fiscal year 1994; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-175. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the internal controls and financial systems in effect during fiscal year 1994; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-176. A communication from the Chairman of the National Endowment For the Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the internal controls and financial systems in effect during fiscal year 1994; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-177. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the internal controls and financial systems in effect during fiscal year 1994; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-178. A communication from the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the internal controls and financial systems in effect during fiscal year 1994; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-179. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the internal controls and financial systems in effect during fiscal year 1994; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-180. A communication from the President of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for fiscal year 1994; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-181. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report concerning surplus Federal real property; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-182. A communication from the Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 1994; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THURMOND, from the Committee on Armed Services, without amendment:

S. Res. 65. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Armed Services.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LOTT:

S. 252. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the earnings test for individuals who have attained retirement age; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 253. A bill to repeal certain prohibitions against political recommendations relating

to Federal employment, to reenact certain provisions relating to recommendations by Members of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

S. 254. A bill to extend eligibility for veterans' burial benefits, funeral benefits, and related benefits for veterans of certain service in the United States merchant marine during World War II; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

By Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 255. A bill to require the Secretary of the Army to carry out such activities as are necessary to stabilize the bluffs along the Mississippi River in the vicinity of Natchez, Mississippi, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DOLE (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. SIMPSON):

S. 256. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to establish procedures for determining the status of certain missing members of the Armed Forces and certain civilians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DOLE (for himself, Mr. INOUE, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. CAMPBELL):

S. 257. A bill to amend the charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to make eligible for membership those veterans that have served within the territorial limits of South Korea; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. THURMOND:

S. Res. 65. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Armed Services; from the Committee on Armed Services; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. PRESSLER (for Mr. GORTON (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. GRAMM, and Mr. BYRD)):

S. Res. 66. A resolution to prevent the adoption of certain national history standards; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. PRESSLER (for Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. SIMON, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. DODD, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. PELL, Mr. INOUE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. REID, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. ROBB, Mr. KOHL, Mr. BRYAN, and Mr. KERRY)):

S. Res. 67. A resolution relating to violence at clinics; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. PRESSLER (for Mr. BRADLEY (for himself, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. ROBB, Mr. DOLE, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, and Mr. WELLSTONE)):

S. Res. 68. A resolution relating to impact on local governments; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LOTT:

S. 252. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the earnings test for individuals who have attained retirement age; to the Committee on Finance.

THE OLDER AMERICANS' FREEDOM TO WORK ACT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Older Americans Freedom to Work Act of 1995 to eliminate the Social Security earnings test for individuals who have attained retirement age.

As the Social Security Act is designed, the Government seems to give little thought to older Americans' ability to make an important contribution to our work force. Senior citizens are subject to taxes such as the Federal Contributions Act [FICA], even in situations where they are receiving Social Security benefits. They are also subject to various Federal, State, and local taxes.

This brings me to the biggest outrage: the Social Security retirement earnings limit. Presently, this limit reduces benefits to persons between ages 65 and 69 who earn more than \$11,280 yearly. These reductions amount to \$1 in reduced benefits for every \$3 in earnings above the aforementioned limit—\$1 for \$3 withholding rate.

The earnings test is very unfair, but it also poses a serious threat to the labor work force. Demographers tell us that between the years 2000 and 2010 the baby boom generation will be in their retirement years. With fewer babies being born to replace them, this Nation is looking at a severe labor shortage. The skills and expertise of older workers is desperately needed.

An earnings limit for Social Security beneficiaries is an ill conceived idea and an administrative nightmare for the Social Security Administration [SSA]. SSA spends a great deal of money and devotes a full 8 percent of its employees to police the income levels of retirees. For beneficiaries, the income limit is a frustrating experience of estimating and reporting income levels to SSA.

In the 1930's, when the earned income limit was devised, encouraging the elderly to leave the workplace was seen as a positive act, designed to increase job opportunities for younger workers. Today, with our shrinking labor force, such a policy is absurd. We need the skills, wisdom, and experience of our older workers, and my proposal will encourage them to remain in the labor force.

In the 102d Congress, the Senate adopted an amendment to the older Americans reauthorization amendments to repeal the earnings test. While it was dropped from final passage, this legislation has perennial bipartisan interest and support.

It is a pleasure to again sponsor legislation in the Senate to abolish the onerous retirement earnings test. This begins the process of providing employment opportunities for older Americans without punishing them for their efforts. It is my understanding that the President supports lifting the earnings test for retirees, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this